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S. Davis
11/22/01

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Zhao

Serial No.: 09/686,323 ✓

Filed: 10/09/2000

Group Art Unit: 2814

Examiner: Ginette Peralta

Docket No. 50324-1290 (97RSS433DIV)

For: **METHOD OF FABRICATING AN INTERCONNECT STRUCTURE EMPLOYING
AIR GAPS BETWEEN METAL LINES AND BETWEEN METAL LAYERS**

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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NOV 16 2001

Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In regard to the above-referenced application, the Applicants submit the following preliminary amendments and remarks to be respectively entered and considered prior to examination.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.